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News Release

First Annual U of M Crookston Powwow Celebrates Native American Culture and Tradition on Saturday, April 24, 2010; Grand Entry Begins at 1 p.m. in Lysaker Gymnasium

By Itollems on Thursday, April 15, 2010

The sound of basketballs on the hardwood floor will be replaced with the beat of drums as the University of Minnesota, Crookston Native American Club hosts the first-ever Powwow on the campus on Saturday, April 24, 2010. The day-long event, held in Lysaker Gymnasium, will begin at 11:30 a.m. with a display and sale of traditional Native American artwork, jewelry, and clothing. A procession of the dancers, known as the Grand Entry, will take place at 1 p.m. along with a welcome address by U of M, Crookston Chancellor Charles H. Casey, the flag song, and invocation.

During the afternoon there will be intertribal dancing, special performances of dance and hand drums along with a dance exhibition. The day concludes with dinner at 5:30 p.m. in Lysaker Gymnasium. There is no charge for any of the activities, but a free will offering will be accepted to help support the powwow.

"The powwow announces the arrival of spring and also demonstrates the pride and beauty of the Native American culture," says Thomas Williams, director of diversity and multicultural services on the Crookston Campus. "We will celebrate the tradition of the Native American people, and through the powwow, we will have the opportunity learn more about their history and customs. We welcome everyone to campus to share this day with us."

Powwows have deep historical roots and these social gatherings feature dancing, drumming, feasting, and provide an opportunity to teach traditions and dispel stereotypes. Today's powwows on college campuses are a modern celebration of traditions which started in the 19th century. For more information on the powwow, contact Williams at 218-281-8580.

Today the University of Minnesota, Crookston delivers more than 25 bachelor's degree programs and 50 concentrations, including several online degrees, in agriculture and natural resources; arts, humanities and social sciences; business; and math, science and technology. With an enrollment of about 1,300 undergraduates, the Crookston campus offers a supportive, close-knit atmosphere that leads to a prestigious University of Minnesota degree. "Small Campus. Big Degree." To learn more, visit www.umcrookston.edu.

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